

God is near– Sunday November 10th 2013.

**You are near, O Lord,
And all Your commandments are truth (.Psalm119:15)**

·Beloved in the Lord,

This one simple verse reveals to us two very important truths. When we understand these two truths we are truly blessed. The two truths contained in this verse are simple yet profound: God is near and all His Commandments are Truth. Today we will look at these two truths and receive the blessings that they contain.

The author of Psalm 119 declares: ***“You are near, O Lord.”*** There is no greater assurance in life, than to know that God is near. Jesus promised His presence in His closing words as He was about to ascend to The Father: ***“Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*** (***Matthew 28:20***)

One of the words that theologians like to use in describing God is Omnipresent. This Latin word means ever present, everywhere. We cannot go anywhere where God is not. We cannot find ourselves in a place where He cannot see us, or reach us, or where He isn't present. David knew this truth very well and he wrote in Psalm 139:

O Lord, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

³You scrutinize my path and my lying down,

And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

⁵You have enclosed me behind and before,

And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,”

**¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You. (Psalm 139:1-12)**

David rightly understood, that God is everywhere. He knew that there was nowhere he could go and God would not be there. The key to understanding God's Omnipresence is found in verse 7 where David writes: ***"Where can I go from Your Spirit?"*** God, The Holy Spirit, the third person in the Holy Trinity is everywhere. God The Holy Spirit, being a Spirit is able to be everywhere at the same time. Jesus promise to be with us always is fulfilled in God The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is called Parakleitos, or Advocate, or Helper. He is our advocate, our attorney, our helper, our guide. If we are in Christ, if we are born again of the Spirit and the Word, then God the Holy Spirit abides in our hearts. Our bodies are His Temple where He dwells.

Can you fathom the fact that Almighty God, who created everything, who is all knowing, all powerful, almighty, dwells within your heart, if you are a Christian? Herein is a reason to praise God day and night, Herein is the reason to honour God with your life. Herein is the reason we should drive out all fear and doubt. We should kick them out and slam the door.

If you are in Christ, then you are never alone and never without help. God The Holy Spirit is dwelling within you. He is your Helper, your Advocate. He is greater and more powerful than our adversary the devil – Satan. The Bible tells us in 1 John: ***"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."*** (1.John 4:4)

He who is in us is God The Holy Spirit. He who is in the world is the devil – Satan. The Holy Spirit is greater. We need not fear Satan, because Jesus has defeated him. If we stay close to Jesus then we are conquerors – in fact Paul writes that we are more than conquerors- we overwhelmingly conquer!

We read these powerful words in Romans 8:

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ Just as it is written,

***"For Your sake we are being put to death all day long;
We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."***

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39)

You see, when we are in Jesus, then we are secure. Everything is in His hands and He is always with us, wherever we may be. God The Holy Spirit is abiding within us. Paul wrote that he was convinced. Are you?

We now come to the second great truth in our text today, namely: All of God’s Commandments are Truth.

Later in this same Psalm the psalmist declares that all of God’s Words are Truth. How many of His words? All of them. Do you believe that? I do. I believe that the Holy Bible from start to finish is God’s Word and it is all truth. There are no errors, no mistakes, nothing that is not true. It is God’s Word and as such can only be true. Paul wrote to Timothy:

“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2.Timothy 3:14-17)

How much of Scripture is inspired by God? That’s right – all of it! Every verse is inspired by God The Holy Spirit.

We read in 2 Peter:

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2.Peter 1:20-21)

It was God The Holy Spirit who gave the prophets the words to speak and the authors of the Bible the words to write down. They are God’s Words. God The Holy Spirit takes what is from God and gives it to us. That is one of His roles. Because God is truth then He can only speak and breathe the Truth. Paul wrote in Romans:

3 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? 2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? 4 May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written,

***“That You may be justified in Your words,
And prevail when You are judged.” (Romans 3:1-4)***

Paul is telling us that all of God’s Word is Truth. The faith or lack of faith of a person does not negate the Truth. Whether you believe or not it is still the Truth. Jesus and God’s Word are inseparable. I have often taught you this fact. About Himself Jesus said:

***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”
(John 14:6)***

Jesus is Truth. God’s Word is Truth. In order to get to God we must come through Jesus. We can only know about Jesus through God’s Word. Do you see how beautifully all these things are interconnected? Praise God.

We began with the Truth that God is near to us. If we want to deepen our relationship with Him and experience the blessings of His nearness, then the main way is through His Word. We need to read it in faith. We need to read it believing that it is the Truth. We need to read it knowing that God Himself is speaking to us through His Word. His Word is Living and Powerful and true.

We should not rely on our feelings. Whether we feel God is near or not, He is near because His Word says so. God always keeps His Word and works through His Word.

The fact is that the more you read God’s Word, the more you grow in Him, the more you will feel His presence in your daily walk with Him.

David wrote:

***“O taste and see that the Lord is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
⁹ O fear the Lord, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want. (Psalm 34:8-9)***

Amen.

Pastor Colvin S. MacPherson Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney.

All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.